

Applic. No. 09/852,348

Amdt. dated November 18, 2004

Reply to Office action of August 19, 2004

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 6, 8, 9, 10-12, and 14-25 remain in the application.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 6, 8, 10-12, 14, and 20-23 have been rejected as being obvious over Boss et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,142,353) (hereinafter "Boss") in view of Raffoni (U.S. Patent No. 6,164,512) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

It is noted that the Raffoni reference has an effective U.S. filing date of April 10, 2000. Enclosed herewith are pages 1 of 3, 2 of 3, 3 of 3, a written description, and a Figure of a German language Invention Disclosures and an English language translation thereof. An unsigned declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 indicating that the present invention was reduced to practice at least as early as April 9, 2000, is also enclosed herewith. A signed copy of the declaration will be forwarded to the Patent Office upon receipt from the inventor. Based on the above-noted information, the Raffoni reference is not available as Prior art. Therefore, the rejection over Boss in view of Raffoni is moot.

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It is appreciatively noted from item 4 on page 3 of the Office action, that claims 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims have not been amended as indicated by the Examiner, as the claims are believed to be patentable in their existing form.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 6, 8, 9, 10-12, and 14-25 are solicited.

Since it is believed that only allowable claims remain, the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited herewith.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

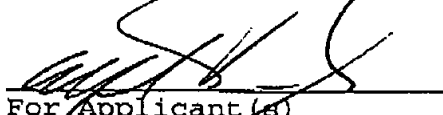
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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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AKD:cgm

November 18, 2004

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